GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1753
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2001
TERRORISTS TRAINING CAMPS AND HIDEOUTS
RENUKA CHOWDHURY;SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether following September 11, 2001, attacks in America and the US declaration of a war against global terrorism, the Government furnished a list of terrorists` training camps and hide-outs in Pak-occupied-Kashmir and Pakistan to the US Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Pak-authorities ordered the militants to vacate and leave these camps and to get mixed with the people in the villages around;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any change in the strategy of US with regard to the operation of terrorists in J&K and other areas has been noticed after the furnishing of list; and

(f) if so, the details in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH)

(a)&(b) Government have furnished to the United States, on all appropriate occasions including during the meetings of the India-US Joint Working Group on Counter-terrorism, details on terrorist training camps and bases in Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir and Pakistan.

(c) Pakistani authorities are obliged, including under UNSC Resolution 1373 on terrorism to refrain from providing any form of support, active or passive, and to deny safe havens to entities or persons involved in terrorism. However, it is well known that with the active connivance of Pakistani authorities, terrorist groups have been able to continue operating from Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

(d)-(f) The United States, as also the majority of countries in the international community, firmly believe that there can be no justification for terrorism, and that terrorism must be eradicated wherever it exists. This position was reiterated in the Joint Statement issued after the meeting between Prime Minister and US President George Bush, on 9th November 2001 in Washington D.C. The two leaders noted that both countries are targets of terrorism, and affirmed the need for a global war against terrorism and its sponsors everywhere in the world. On 5th October 2001, the White House Spokesman further stated that President Bush had condemned the terrorist attack in Srinagar on 1st October, and that the President had also said that `terrorism must end everywhere, and that includes in Kashmir`.